



**Presentation to the Hawai'i State Board of  
Education  
Regarding a State Seal of Biliteracy (SB900)  
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Dina R. Yoshimi, PhD  
Director, Hawai'i Language Roadmap  
College of Languages, Linguistics, & Literatures  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
Email: [dinar@hawaii.edu](mailto:dinar@hawaii.edu)

# **SB900: A State Seal of Biliteracy for Hawai'i**

**Speaking**  
**Listening**  
**Reading**  
**Writing**

**English**  
**and**  
**an**  
**additional**  
**language**

**High Level**  
**of**  
**Proficiency**

ELL Learners/Multilinguals,  
Heritage Speakers, and World  
Language Students as  
Proficient Bilinguals

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**“Language  
is an asset,  
not a liability.”**

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# The value to our students

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- *Language is central to an individual's identity – our schools value all aspects of the student*
- *Speaking one or more additional languages is key to becoming a global citizen*
- *Through an additional language a student sees and knows the world in more than one way;*
- *Language as a credential for college credit and career pathways*

# The value to our students and to our state

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- *Recognize and promote world language instruction in public schools;*
- *Protect and support the revitalization of ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, the indigenous language of Hawaii;*
- *Recognize the importance of world language resources that immigrant English language learners/ multilingual students bring to schools;*
- *Recognize and promote the continual development of the first languages of immigrant students as a means of achieving biliteracy; and*
- *Strengthen intergroup relationships, affirm the value of diversity, and honor the multiple cultures and languages of a community.*

# Earning a Seal of Biliteracy

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- Passing grades in all required English/language arts courses; AND
- A high level of proficiency in one or more languages other than English as evidenced by **ONE** of the following:
  - a) a score of three or higher on a world language **AP examination**;
  - b) a score of four or higher on a world language **IB examination**;
  - c) a passing score on a **nationally recognized world language assessment** comparable to the AP or IB examinations (above) which includes assessment of speaking, listening, reading, and writing;
  - d) **PROPOSED**: a passing score on **other assessments** that are correlated to the required minimum level of language proficiency (as established in A-C above) and that take into consideration the unique characteristics of certain languages, including, but not limited to ASL, spoken languages with no written form, etc. ; or
  - e) **Demonstrated first language proficiency** in speaking, listening, reading, and writing, in a language other than English as certified by the student's high school to the superintendent.

# The Seal of Biliteracy in California

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# **Certification for awarding the Seal of Biliteracy in Hawai'i**

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- Student applies for a Seal of Biliteracy during a fixed period in the second half of the school year (to be determined by HIDOE);
- Student provides evidence of passing assessment at the required level to the school;
- Student's school validates proof of assessment and checks transcripts for English Language Arts classes.
- [Not currently in SB900\_SD1: As relevant, student may also apply for Credit by Exam];



# **Awarding the Seal of Biliteracy in Hawai'i**

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- ✓ HIDOE designs a seal and a certificate
- ✓ HIDOE develops guidelines for awarding the Seal
- ✓ Students apply for the Seal at their school (i.e., submit application form and evidence of assessment)
- ✓ School awards Seal based on HIDOE guidelines
- ✓ School affixes Seal to certificate of recognition
- ✓ School records award on student's transcript
- ✓ School reports names of Seal recipients to HIDOE

# An option: Pathways for elementary and middle school students provide motivation

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- Make parents aware of the award early, to help them understand the importance of maintaining primary language
- Motivate students to start early and stay focused
- Participation award to honor participation in language study
- Service award to honor use of language to help others (for example, a child serves as a reading buddy to students in the lower grades, or as an ambassador to visitors)



# Implementing a State Seal of Biliteracy

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- **Costs of a State Seal of Biliteracy**
  - Certificate paper
  - Seals
  - Supplementing Title I students' testing fees
- **Defraying costs and becoming self-sufficient**
  - Grants from world language organizations and/or community groups to fund the Seal
  - Local business sponsors for the Seal
  - Community centers, chambers of commerce, or cultural groups support the Seal



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**HAWAII LANGUAGE ROADMAP INITIATIVE**  
Bringing Employers and Educators Together to Shape Hawai'i's Future Multilingual Workforce

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