

**Agenda Item VI.I, Board Action on Student Achievement Committee recommendations concerning
new Board Policy, unnumbered, Seal of Biliteracy**

General Business Meeting

June 16, 2015

The Seal of Biliteracy policy was developed based on the text of Senate Bill 900, which proposed a Seal of Biliteracy to be implemented by the Department of Education (“Department”). The Board of Education (“Board”) took up the matter of the Seal of Biliteracy to clarify that it was the responsibility of the Board, rather than the Legislature.

The Board considered the Seal of Biliteracy at its March 3, 2015 General Business Meeting. At this meeting the Board took action, supporting the intent of Senate Bill 900 and referring the matter to the Student Achievement Committee to develop the policy and/or other Board direction or action.

Per the Board’s request, a draft of the policy was presented at the Student Achievement Committee’s May 5, 2015 meeting. At this meeting, the Department expressed concerns with the policy as drafted. The committee voted to adopt the concept of the policy and assigned the matter to Student Achievement Committee Vice Chairperson Patricia Halagao to work with the Department on edits and points of clarification. The revised policy was to be brought back to the committee before submission to the full Board for review and action.

On June 2, 2015, SAC Vice Chairperson Halagao presented a further revised draft of the policy and proposed a motion with specific action at the Student Achievement Committee’s June 2, 2015 meeting. At this same meeting, there was a motion to amend by substitution the proposed motion and the policy itself. The Student Achievement Committee ended up adopting the amendment motion with further amendments and adopted the amended policy. The motion that was passed was as follows:

“The Committee recommends that the full Board approve the proposed new Seal of Biliteracy policy as described in the document dated June 2, 2015 from Student Achievement Committee Member Jim Williams. The Seal of Biliteracy shall be available to students graduating in 2017 and thereafter. Upon adoption by the Board, the Department shall form a Seal of Biliteracy Task Force as described in the June 2, 2015 memorandum on the subject policy to the Student Achievement Committee from Patricia Halagao (“June 2, 2015 Memorandum”). The explanation of the intent of the policy as stated in the June 2, 2015 Memorandum will be made part of the record, which should be consulted when interpreting the policy. The Department shall comply with Board Policy 400.3, provided that the implementation plan shall be submitted to the Board by September 30, 2015.”

The version of the policy that the Student Achievement Committee adopted is attached as **Exhibit A**.

Exhibit A

Seal of Biliteracy

(Proposed BOE Policy #)

The Board of Education hereby establishes a Seal of Biliteracy to be awarded upon graduation to students who demonstrate a high proficiency in English and at least one additional language, including American Sign Language.

The purposes of the Seal of Biliteracy are to recognize the importance of: (1) enabling students to be college, career, and community ready in today's global society; (2) establishing an educational culture that recognizes and values the wealth of linguistic and cultural diversity students bring to the classroom; (3) supporting opportunities for study of and increasing proficiency in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, an official language of the State of Hawai'i; and (4) encouraging partnerships with institutions of higher education and community organizations to increase access to language instruction in a variety of languages.

The Department of Education shall implement the Seal of Biliteracy, including development of criteria that provide for high levels of proficiency for those receiving the Seal.

Rationale: The Board of Education recognizes that there is personal, cultural, social, academic, and vocational/occupational value in encouraging students to maintain, or develop, proficiency in English and an additional language.