



STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

February 16, 2016

TO: Lance A. Mizumoto
Chairperson, Board of Education

FROM: Patricia Halagao
Student Achievement Committee Chairperson, Board of Education

AGENDA ITEM: Action on Student Achievement Committee recommendations concerning new Board Policy 105.14, Language in Education (ELL/Bilingual) (proposed new name: Multilingualism for Equitable Education)

I. Background

Through the memorandum from me and Student Achievement Committee Member Grant Chun to the Student Achievement Committee ("Committee"), dated February 2, 2016, we proposed a new Board Policy 105.14, entitled "Multilingualism for Equitable Education." In our memorandum, we explained the background and need for such a policy, as well as the process for its development.

At its February 2, 2016 meeting, the Committee approved the new policy with amendments. The amendments to the original proposal are redlined in **Exhibit A**, and the final version of the policy that the Committee is ultimately recommending to the Board for approval is attached as **Exhibit B**.

The Committee made two amendments to the proposed policy. The first is to clearly direct the Department of Education to strive to meet the goals of the policy. The second recognizes the State's two official languages by clarifying the rationale that multilingualism for equitable education will help students learn the official language medium of education whether that medium is English or Hawaiian.

II. Recommendation

Your Committee is recommending the adoption of this new Board Policy through the following motion:

"Moved to adopt new Board Policy 105.14, Multilingualism for Equitable Education, as stated in the memorandum, dated February 16, 2016."

Exhibit A
**Proposed Board Policy 105.14, Multilingualism for Equitable Education (with
redlined changes from Student Achievement Committee)**

MULTILINGUALISM FOR EQUITABLE EDUCATION

All cultures and languages are valuable resources to learn and live in Hawai'i and our global community. Multilingualism creates learning environments that draw from the rich linguistic diversity and cultural strengths of Hawaii's students. The Board of Education recognizes the important role of multilingualism in providing a meaningful and equitable education for student achievement.

~~[The goals of the policy are to:]~~ The Department shall strive to meet the following goals of this policy:

- provide a range of language program(s) for multilingual students, which include students identified as English Learners (EL) and students who want to learn an additional language;
- provide effective educators with appropriate knowledge, skills, and instructional materials; and
- provide outreach supports to families to become actively engaged in their children's education.

To promote partnerships that support the implementation of this policy, the Department shall establish a permanent advisory committee made up of diverse stakeholders, including family members, community leaders, multilingual speakers, educational experts, school practitioners and administrators.

The Department shall provide an annual report on the implementation of this policy to the Board.

The Department shall seek the necessary funds to implement this policy, but nothing in this policy shall require the expenditure of funds in excess of what is appropriated to the Department.

The Department shall comply with all state and federal laws related to language in education, but nothing in this policy shall confer any rights or obligations to students, parents, employees or other persons, beyond those provided for by law.

Rationale: Research shows when students' identities, histories, cultures, and languages are included in a meaningful and equitable education, they are better able to learn academic content and the official language medium of education, be it English or Hawaiian.

Exhibit B
**Proposed Board Policy 105.14, Multilingualism for Equitable Education (final
version from the Student Achievement Committee)**

MULTILINGUALISM FOR EQUITABLE EDUCATION

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