

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 02/04/2025

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Bill Title: HB 0863 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds to the Department of Education for teacher-requested classroom supplies.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) strongly supports HB 863.

Through an existing public-private partnership, the Department is able to provide teachers and students with financial resources to fund teacher-led projects for their classroom.

Through our public-private partnership, the Department is able to receive matching funds from individual donors, corporate partners, and foundation partners. Since 2007, 45,055 projects have been funded for 11,072 teachers. Of which, 21,208 projects have been funded for 8,035 teachers with Department funds. With the \$3,000,000 appropriation (and funds matched by donors), the Department estimates it may be able to fund 8,000 more projects next school year. The Department will have 13,000 teachers in the school year 2025-2026.

Funding to continue this program will support teachers with providing books, computers and tablets, art supplies, educational kits and games, lab equipment and other resources that they would not otherwise be able to purchase on their own.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 863.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



MAKALAPUA ALENCASTRE, ED. D.
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1100, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

FOR: HB 863 Relating to Education
DATE: February 4, 2025
TIME: 2:00 P.M.
COMMITTEE: Committee on Education
ROOM: Conference Room 309 & Videoconference
FROM: Ed H. Noh, Ed. D., Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 863** which is to appropriate funds to the Department of Education for teacher-requested classroom supplies.

The Commission appreciates this measure and the support for public school teachers that it provides; it should be noted that charter schools would benefit indirectly from this through a modest increase in per pupil funding. Pursuant to the per pupil funding formula, an increase in funding to the department in the major general fund cost categories results in an increase in charter school per pupil funding. Also, per pupil funding is provided as lump sum funding to charter schools, so charter schools would have the discretion on using these additional funds for other expenses, not just classroom supplies.

The Commission is available to work with this committee, the DOE, and our public charter schools in moving this legislation forward. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



HOUSE BILL 863, RELATING TO EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 4, 2025 · EDN HEARING

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus **supports** HB 863, relating to education, which appropriates funds to the Department of Education for teacher-requested classroom supplies.

According to the National School Supply and Equipment Association, public school teachers annually spend \$1.6 billion of their discretionary income on supplementary school supplies and instructional materials. On average, teachers surveyed spent a total of \$485 on school supplies and instructional materials, with more than 10 percent spending over \$1,000 of personal income each school year to educate their keiki. **Those figures have risen as inflation has gotten worse. In September of 2024, our state's inflation rate was 4.2 percent, roughly 1.8 percent higher than the national inflation rate.**

That trend is, if anything, worse in Hawai'i, which consistently ranks at the bottom in national teacher compensation studies. Pay cuts, rising health care costs, adjusted insurance co-pays, and the loss of the state's \$1,690-per-special-education-teacher classroom supply fund have all aggravated the financial burden borne by teachers' pocketbooks. In a recent survey conducted by HSTA, 47 percent of respondents cited personal expenditures between \$250 and \$500 each

year on classroom supplies, with many claiming expenditures in excess of \$1,000. Lawmakers must take action to lighten their financial load.

Ensuring that educators do not have to pay for their own classroom supplies effectively increases their purchasing power, puts money back into the local economy, and incentivizes the teaching profession at a time when our state's high cost-of-living and low adjusted-average income levels compel many would-be teachers to choose more highly compensated professions or, even worse, leave the state altogether. Today, approximately half of Hawai'i's teachers leave our state's classrooms every five years. Therefore, to recruit and retain quality teachers for our schools, we should provide fiscal incentives that offset the inflationary cost of classroom supplies that support the learning growth of our keiki.

Contact: educationcaucusdph@gmail.com



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Secretary-Treasurer

Ann Mahi
Executive Director

TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAI'I HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Item: HB 863 – Relating to Education

Position: Support

Hearing: Tuesday, February 4, 2025, 2:00 pm, Room 309

Submitter: Osa Tui, Jr., President - Hawai'i State Teachers Association

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association (HSTA) **supports** HB 863 which appropriates funds to the Department of Education for teacher-requested classroom supplies.

On average, teachers nationwide spend approximately \$500 of their own money each year on classroom supplies, further straining their already tight budgets. In Hawai'i, it is an even greater strain with many teachers struggling to make ends meet. HB 863 would provide much-needed financial relief to teachers and allow them to focus on educating our keiki.

HB 863 would also help ensure that all students have access to the resources they need to succeed. By providing funding for classroom supplies, we can help alleviate the financial burden on teachers and improve the learning environment for our students.

We recommend the passage of HB 863.

Mahalo.



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i

February 4, 2025

Testimony in Support of HB863: Relating to Education

To: Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the House Committee on Education

From: Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick, Co-chairs, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

Date: February 4, 2025, 2:00 p.m.

Re: HB863: Relating to Education

Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the House Committee on Education,

We, Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick, Co-chairs of the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii, strongly support HB863, which aims to appropriate funds to the Department of Education for teacher-requested classroom supplies. This bill is a crucial step towards ensuring that our educators have the necessary resources to provide quality education to our students.

Key Points of HB863:

1. **Appropriation of Funds:** Allocates funds to the Department of Education specifically for teacher-requested classroom supplies.
2. **Support for Educators:** Provides teachers with the resources they need to create engaging and effective learning environments.
3. **Enhanced Learning Experience:** Ensures that students have access to the materials and supplies necessary for a comprehensive education.
4. **Investment in Education:** Demonstrates a commitment to supporting education and investing in the future of Hawaii's students.

Arguments in Support:

1. **Empowering Teachers:** By providing funds for teacher-requested classroom supplies, HB863 empowers educators to tailor their classrooms to meet the unique needs of their students. This support enables teachers to create dynamic and engaging learning experiences.

2. **Improved Student Outcomes:** Access to adequate classroom supplies is essential for student success. When teachers have the resources they need, students are more likely to be engaged, motivated, and successful in their studies.
3. **Equity in Education:** Ensuring that all teachers have access to the necessary supplies helps to create a more equitable education system. This bill supports teachers in underserved and underfunded schools, helping to level the playing field for all students.
4. **Long-Term Benefits:** Investing in education has long-term benefits for the community. By supporting teachers and students, we are investing in the future workforce and leaders of Hawaii.

In conclusion, we urge the Committee to pass HB863. This bill represents a significant and necessary step towards supporting our educators and ensuring that all students have access to the resources they need for a quality education. We believe that with the implementation of HB863, Hawaii can lead the way in providing a supportive and effective educational environment for our students.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick Co-chairs, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

HB-863

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 2:10:55 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill as teachers should not be using their personal funds to purchase supplies for their classes. The school should be providing all the necessary equipments and supplies that teachers need to provide and give their students a solid education. They should not be worried about purchasing supplies.

Thank you fo rthe opportunity to testify.

HB-863

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 8:07:58 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Veronica Moore	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education
House Committee on Finance

From: Veronica Moore, Individual Citizen

Date: February 2, 2025

RE: Upcoming Hearing for HB863

Measure Title: RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Report Title: Department of Education; Education Supplies; Appropriation (\$)

To All Concerned,

My name is Veronica Moore and I support House Bill 863 as I believe the support provided to teachers in this regard will be most effective in garnering both short and long-term benefits for students and teachers. Thank you for introducing this bill and I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony regarding it.

Sincerely,

Veronica M. Moore

HB-863

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 9:31:18 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Larry Veray	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I totally support this bill and the language.

HB-863

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 12:32:05 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rick Collins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent who oftentimes donates snacks and school supplies to my children's teachers, I see firsthand the personal expenses teachers often put into their school supplies. I believe that teaching is one of the most important professions we could value in our society for it's essential role of educating our future generation. This bill would help lessen the burden on teachers and would ultimately support our children. Please pass this measure out of your committee. Mahalo, Rick Collins

HB-863

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 1:21:16 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rita Kama-Kimura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Again, strongly support.

HB-863

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 1:52:52 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abigail Poorman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Representative Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Representative Donna Mercado, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

From: Abigail Poorman

Subject: Support of HB863, Relating to Education

Hello! My name is Abigail Poorman and I would like to ask you for your support on HB863. As a student at Kalaheo Hgh School, I have witnessed many teachers in need of supplies such as pencils, pens, and even paper. It is essential for teachers to receive appropriate funding for classroom supplies because these resources directly impact the quality of education and the learning environment students experience. Many teachers often spend their own money to provide necessary materials, such as books, art supplies, and basic classroom tools, which can lead to financial strain and also a bad learning experience. With proper funding, teachers can create engaging and effective lessons, help foster creativity, and support the diverse needs of their students. Additionally, when teachers have access to quality supplies, it not only enhances student engagement but also encourages a more inclusive and supportive classroom atmosphere, ultimately benefiting student learning outcomes and overall academic success.

Supporting this bill will impact a lot of schools, and even the students inside. Teachers already have it hard enough so doing this for them will lead to less strain on the teacher themselves. That is why I ask for your support on bill HB863.

LATE

HB-863

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 2:25:12 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mackenzie Brammer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 3rd, 2024

To: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair of the Education Committee

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair of the Education Committee

From: Mackenzie Brammer

Support of HB863, Relating to Education

Aloha, my name is Mackenzie Brammer and I am currently a senior at Kalaheo High School. I strongly support HB863, relating to education. As a public school student, I have witnessed many instances in which teachers have trouble buying supplies for their students. By the middle of the year, they have trouble keeping up with the constant purchase of basic supplies such as pencils. Asking teachers to buy their own supplies not only becomes a burden on their personal finances, but also on the students they're teaching. It is completely unfair for a student's quality of education to be determined by how much money the teacher has to buy supplies. Passing this bill would encourage equity in our classrooms statewide. Because of this, I would like to ask for your support of HB863. Thank you for your time.

LATE

HB-863

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 6:14:29 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Tesoro-Rarangol	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support HB863. Recalling my time in high school and elementary school, our teachers would ask us to bring in supplies like reams of paper and other classroom supplies. Sometimes, teachers would even buy their supplies for us students to use out of their pockets. Teachers are cornerstones of our community and children. As such, they should be supported by our government in getting the supplies that they need. I fully support this bill