

HOUSE BILL 243, RELATING TO EDUCATION FUNDING

FEBRUARY 12, 2019 · HOUSE EDUCATION
COMMITTEE · CHAIR REP. JUSTIN H. WOODSON

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus supports HB 243, relating to education funding, which requires the Department of Education to contract with a consulting firm that specializes in school finance, particularly with respect to adequacy studies of public education systems in multiple states, to perform a study on the adequacy of funding for education in Hawai'i.

As you are aware, the Hawai'i Supreme Court invalidated the proposed constitutional amendment to increase school funding by placing a surcharge on residential investment property. While we are disappointed by the Court's ruling, the Caucus is continuing the fight to deliver the schools our keiki deserve.

To that end, we support legislation to initiate an adequacy study of Hawai'i's public school system. Pioneered by leading school finance experts like Picus Odden and Associates, an adequacy study is an evidence-based analysis of education funding to determine what resources are needed, and in what amount, to provide every student with an equal educational opportunity.

Adequacy studies have been performed in numerous states across the nation, including Oregon, Washington, Vermont, Arkansas, and Texas. One preferred method employed in adequacy

studies is the Evidence-Based Model, which reviews educational research to identify strategies that show evidence of improving student learning, then estimates the resources needed at a prototypical school to implement those strategies and extrapolates resource costs to the district level.

According to Picus Odden and Associates, a comprehensive adequacy study for our state of our size would cost approximately \$200,000, depending upon the scope of the request. Moreover, an adequacy study could address issues of teacher recruitment and retention, including how salary and other compensation enhancements may contribute to resolving Hawai'i's teacher shortage crisis.

While the death of the constitutional amendment still stings, we cannot give up the quest for a fully-funded school system. Our children's future depends on our resolve.



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



Date: 02/12/2019

Time: 02:15 PM

Location: 309

Committee: House Lower & Higher
Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0243 RELATING TO EDUCATION FUNDING.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the Department of Education to contract with a consulting firm that specializes in school finance, particularly with respect to adequacy studies of public education systems in multiple states, to perform a study on the adequacy of funding for education in Hawaii. Appropriates funds.

Department's Position:

The Department very much supports the intent of HB 0243, but has concerns that in its current form would impose an extensive and specific scope of work for the adequacy study, with inadequate time or funding to complete.

This measure would:

require the Department to contract with a consulting firm that specializes in school finance and adequacy studies of public education systems in multiple states, to perform a study on the adequacy of funding for education in Hawaii;

appropriate \$100,000 to the Department to contract the study effective July 1, 2019; and
establish a due date for a report on the findings and recommendation of the study no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2020 (less than six months after effective date of the measure).

The Department shares the concerns raised in Section 1 that include recognition that:
the Department's funding may be lagging in comparison to districts of similar size and cost of living;
underfunding public schools undermines the State's goal of providing a quality education for all of Hawaii's children; and
insufficient funding results in larger class sizes, a lack of adequate classroom supplies, elimination of arts and career and technical education courses, limits special education and English language learner programs, limits site based empowerment, and contributes to challenges in recruiting and retaining quality teachers and staff.

The Department has the following suggestions:

Section 2. (a)(1) to (6) - consider shifting the detailed requirements for the adequacy study contained into

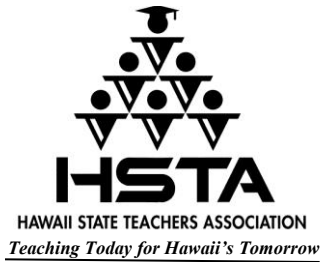
the Committee Report, where they can be viewed as desirable components of the adequacy study, but not mandates that may preclude contractors from submitting proposals;

Section 2. (b) - consider shifting the due date from 20 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2020, to the regular session of 2021, to allow for the work required to follow procurement laws to select a contractor to perform the work, the contractor to conduct the research and engage with stakeholders, the contractor to draft a report, and the Department to review and accept the work; and

Section 3. - consider increasing the appropriation for the study to \$500,000, given that estimates shared with the last Committee on Weights by education researchers in the field for the cost of adequacy studies in other jurisdictions ranged from \$250,000 to \$1 million.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.



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Vice President
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Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
LOWER AND HIGHER EDUCATION

RE: HB 243 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2019

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

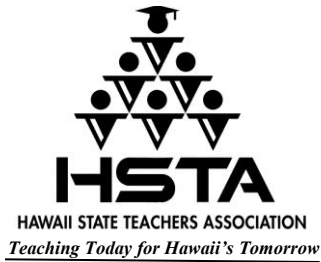
Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 243 with a suggested amendments**, relating to education. Due to the length of time that it would take to conduct an Adequacy Study using the Evidence-Based method that includes case studies for rich data that lawmakers would find useful, **we suggest the study be completed for the legislature prior to the 2021 legislative session, instead of the 2020 legislative session** as written in the current language of this bill. We also **suggest deleting, on page 3, (4), lines 15-21** ~~Evaluate the impact of school funding on student 16 achievement, special education programs, the 17 availability of arts and culture curricula, access to 18 public preschool and afterschool programs, the 19 provision of wraparound care and student support 20 systems, and any other issue related to the operation 21 of Hawaii's public school system;~~ **as evaluating any impact would not be part of an adequacy study, that would happen a few years after, if it was desired, thus it would cause an unnecessary cost increase for this particular study.**

In recent years, state legislatures, state education departments and advocacy groups in more than 30 states have sponsored education adequacy studies to objectively determine the funding levels needed to educate all children to high standards. These professional studies have introduced transparency and rigor to a previously opaque and often arbitrary process.

Providing lawmakers with the very best, most accurate and most reliable data is an imperative first step to help them plan for funding allocations that will concentrate efforts to improve the quality of education our students deserve.

Supporting a school funding adequacy study using the Evidence-Based Method will determine what it will truly cost to educate all public school students in Hawai'i, regardless of income, location, learning challenges or other circumstances.



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Adequacy studies are rigorously being used to lay the groundwork for long-term, meaningful school improvement by determining where resources should be allocated, based on the best educational research, that will help all students achieve and succeed, whether that means college, technical training, apprenticeships or jobs right after graduation. An adequacy study will help determine the true cost of providing a high-quality education to all of our children in Hawaii in our public schools.

An adequacy study would take into consideration what is needed at a school based on poverty, districts of varying sizes, types of schools (elementary, middle, high school), plus the size of the school, and whether it is in a geographically isolated district such as Lanai and Hana. It will also consider what resources, including certified teachers and support staff, are needed, to help focus on all students including those with special needs, English Language Learners, and at-risk students. The study will provide lawmakers with the foundation for any potential school funding allocations to get the most bang for the buck, so to speak. It has worked for other states, such as Washington, recently, and it is time for Hawaii to take a closer look at our funding for our public schools, especially when it comes to resource allocations.

Accordingly, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII
The Voice of Business

LATE

**Testimony to the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education
Monday, February 12, 2019 at 2:15 P.M.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol**

RE: HB 243 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Chair Woodson, Vice Chairs Hashem and Perruso, and members of the committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 243, which requires the Department of Education to contract with a consulting firm that specializes in school finance, particularly with respect to adequacy studies of public education systems in multiple states, to perform a study on the adequacy of funding for education in Hawaii.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

A study on the capability of funding at the Department of Education would help the State determine exactly what kinds of costs are needed to help with our schools' infrastructure and student needs. With a reported backlog of over \$800 million for repair and maintenance projects, it is vital that we are funding our schools as best we can. Such a study could also help to more accurately inform further action by the Legislature to improve our schools. We need to help ensure that our students are offered the best education in order to prepare them for college and their future roles in the workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

HB-243

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 4:49:16 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/12/2019 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments: