



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

**Date:** 02/01/2022

**Time:** 02:00 PM

**Location:** 309 Via Videoconference

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Interim Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 1683 RELATING TO CIVIC EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the Commission to Promote and Advance Civic Education, to develop and implement curriculum in civic education as a component of high school United States history courses.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully provides comments on HB 1683.

The Hawaii Core Standards in Social Studies, adopted by the Hawaii State Board of Education in 2018, provides for the development of robust civic content, processes, skills, and dispositions in all public K-12 schools. The K-12 anchor standards of Civic and Political Institutions, Civic Virtues and Democratic Principles, and Processes, Rules, and Laws, guide teachers to use civics as a consistent frame to discuss local, national, and global problems, issues, and concerns and how to address them. The specific knowledge and skills required for such informed action are taught and learned through the relevant content standards in each grade and course.

Participation in a Democracy, a required high school course focused solely on civic education, provides students with instruction on the topics contained in this bill, such as the three branches of government and the various parts of the Constitution (also taught in Grade 8 United States History). The content standards for this course for which students are expected to demonstrate proficiency include "explain how the American Constitution embodies the principles of the rule of law, popular sovereignty, separation of powers, checks and balances, and limited government" and "analyze the role of the three branches of government in the lawmaking process." Students also learn about the

significance of landmark Supreme Court cases, the shaping of public policy, and the importance of exercising the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. The Participation in Democracy course ends with an action civics requirement where students "plan and demonstrate some ways in which an active citizen can effect change in the community, state, nation, or world." Students apply the knowledge gained in this course to better understand the content of the United States History and Government course, which address content standards such as "evaluate popular and government responses to emerging domestic challenges" and "analyze U.S. responses to global challenges and crises."

The Department appreciates the inclusion of the the United States Citizenship and Immigrations Services civics test (also known as the Naturalization test) as a metric; however, the Department feels this test is not an adequate measure of civic learning as it assesses only memorized content and not the actual understanding or application of the content. There is no evidence that passing this test would result in greater civic engagement. The current civics standards and learning targets within the Hawaii Content Standards in Social Studies provide better measures of progress for educators hoping to inspire a lifelong commitment to civic responsibility and engagement for students.

Given the current robust requirements for civic education, the Department believes that this bill is not needed at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1683.

Testimony to the Thirty-First Legislature, 2022 Regular Session  
House Committee on Education  
Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice-Chair

Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309  
Via Videoconferencing

By  
Chief Judge Lisa M. Ginoza, Intermediate Court of Appeals  
Chair, Commission to Promote and Advance Civic Education (PACE Commission)

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**Bill No. and Title:** House Bill No. 1683, Relating to Civic Education

**Purpose:** Requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the Commission to Promote and Advance Civic Education, to develop and implement curriculum in civic education as a component of high school United States history courses.

**PACE Commission Position:** Support the intent, but defer to the Department of Education

The PACE Commission appreciates and supports the intent of this bill in that it seeks to promote civic engagement and expand civic education in Hawaii's public and charter high schools. However, regarding the specific requirement in the bill to include a component of civic education in United States history courses, the PACE Commission defers to the Department of Education (DOE) because there may be more appropriate classes in which to include civic education requirements. Further, with respect to the provision in the bill that the DOE establish content for civic education in consultation with the PACE Commission, the commission notes that only some of its members have backgrounds in teaching or education. Therefore, although the PACE Commission is willing to provide input, it does not have extensive expertise in curriculum development at this time.

The PACE Commission was created pursuant to Rule 23 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii, issued on January 7, 2021. The purpose of the PACE Commission is to promote and advance civic education for students and citizens throughout Hawaii. The commission has fourteen members appointed according to Rule 23 by the following: Chief Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court, Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Superintendent of the Department of Education, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii, President of the University of Hawaii, Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law, Hawaii State Bar Association, Hawaii Association of Independent Schools, and two members selected by the other appointed members.

The commission began meeting in April 2021 and meets monthly. It also has two committees, one focused on civic education in the schools and one focused more generally on civic engagement in the community. The mission statement adopted by the PACE Commission is: "To create, implement

and amplify sustainable programs, resources, and practices that improve place-based, constitutionally informed and culturally sensitive civic education and engagement in Hawai'i schools and communities."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on this bill.

**HB-1683**

Submitted on: 1/28/2022 5:59:03 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Michael Golojuch Jr	Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

The Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i (formerly the LGBT Caucus) fully supports HB 1683.

We hope you all will support this important piece of legislation.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.  
Chair and SCC Representative  
Stonewall Caucus for the DPH

Statement Before The  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

2:00 PM

Via Videoconference

in consideration of  
**HB 1683**  
**RELATING TO CIVIC EDUCATION.**

Chair WOODSON, Vice Chair KAPELA, and Members of the House Education Committee

Common Cause Hawaii supports HB 1683, which requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the Commission to Promote and Advance Civic Education, to develop and implement curriculum in civic education as a component of high school United States history courses.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening democracy through voting modernization efforts that increase civic engagement, voter turnout, and voter participation in our democratic processes.

Given Hawaii's traditional low voter registration and low voter turnout rates, people are not generally engaged in the political process. See <https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/08/why-does-hawaii-have-such-low-voter-turnout-heres-what-the-data-says/> (retrieved Jan. 29, 2022). Studies have shown that voting is a habit, which develop over repetition and can become strongly ingrained if developed early. See <https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/456934-how-voting-becomes-a-habit> (retrieved Jan. 29, 2022). Hopefully, HB 1683 will teach our youth the importance of civic engagement and voting to have engaged future leaders, leading to a strong and vibrant democracy. "We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate." Thomas Jefferson.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1683, and Common Cause Hawaii respectfully urges the committee members to pass HB 1683 out of your Committee. If you have questions of me, please contact me at [sma@commoncause.org](mailto:sma@commoncause.org).

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma  
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

**HB-1683**

Submitted on: 1/28/2022 7:33:15 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB1683.

Mike Golojuch, Sr.

**HB-1683**

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 7:55:43 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support.



**HB-1683**

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 11:23:59 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Rosemarie Muller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

My name is Rosemarie Muller and I am a resident of Keaau, Hawaii. I support this bill because promoting and implementing civic education in schools will get more young people engaged in the political process. It could also help with our low voter turnout. Voting is a habit and can lead to a stronger democracy.

Mahalo

**HB-1683**

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 5:18:24 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Well it's about time. After all these years, I remain grateful for the civics class I had as a high school junior. Many young people have demonstrated a critical lack of knowledge and understanding about how governments at all levels work. This is truly critical and I hope it can be accomplished.

**HB-1683**

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 6:06:46 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
David Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Given Hawaii's traditional low voter registration and low voter turnout rates, people are not generally engaged in the political process. Studies have shown that voting is a habit, which develops over repetition and can become strongly ingrained if developed early.

- Hopefully, SB 1683 will teach our youth the importance of civic engagement and voting to have engaged future leaders, leading to a strong and vibrant democracy.

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

**HB-1683**

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 7:11:33 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
John Bickel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a teacher of Advanced Placement American Government and Politics, I know students coming into my class know all too little about the democracy of which they are a critical part. Unfortunately the class is an elective. Most students don't take it and leave high school all too ignorant of the political process and principles key to our democracy.

**HB-1683**

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 8:38:35 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Lisa Huynh Eller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Given Hawaii's traditional low voter registration and low voter turnout rates, people are not generally engaged in the political process.

Studies have shown that voting is a habit, which develop over repetition and can become strongly ingrained if developed early.

Students/young adults need not only be informed about their rights as citizens via voting but also about how the government functions. Through this education, I hope we will see a better understanding, appreciation, and engagement in our government.

Therefore, I support this bill to require the Department of Education, in consultation with the Commission to Promote and Advance Civic Education, to develop and implement the curriculum in civic education as a component of high school United States history course.

**HB-1683**

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 11:12:17 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Susan Dursin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a former history teacher, I was gratified to see the Commission to Promote and Advance Civic Education established. Such education, even courses called "Civic Education," had been a part of curriculum across the country before it began to disappear.

Simply saying that civic engagement and voting awareness should be offered is not enough. Teachers will benefit from having curriculum developed and implemented from the top.

Please support HB1683.

**HB-1683**

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 11:46:46 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Stacie M Burke	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair

Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

Committee On Education

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Support for H.B. No. 1683 Relating to Civic Education

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony in strong support of H.B. 1683, requiring the Department of Education to implement a curriculum in civic education in our public and charter high schools.

Hawai'i had the third-lowest voter turnout of all the states for the 2020 general election, despite having the convenience of all mail balloting. Voting is a habit that must be ingrained early to ensure participation.

Let's give our young adults the power to make informed choices by providing a rich curriculum in civic education. Perhaps this will even fuel their desire to take part in legislative process, shaping a better tomorrow for us all.

Mahalo

Stacie M. Burke

Aiea , Hawai'i

Charles St. Sure  
2499 Kapiolani Boulevard  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

Committee on Education  
Hearing on February 1, 2022  
Conference Room 309

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela and Members of the House Committee on Education

In Strong Support of HB 1683

I understand that the Department of Education should be given as much autonomy as possible when determining their curriculum, however there are times when some nudging is necessary. A recent Annenberg survey (September 2018) found that only 32 percent of Americans were able to correctly name all 3 branches of government. Chief Justice Recktenwald in his address to the legislature last year (January 27, 2021) recognized the problem when he announced a new critical initiative called the PACE Commission to "serve as a catalyst for civic education throughout the state, and increase understanding and respect for the institutions of our democracy".

Understanding the working of our local and national governments infuses our daily lives whether it is in the newspaper, the evening news or social media. There is so much misinformation displayed on social media platforms today; the best deterrent is knowledge – knowledge delivered early and discussed fully in our classrooms.

It is critical that our youth have a solid understanding of civics if our democracy is expected to survive the apparent boundless ignorance in society today.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CS', is written over two horizontal lines.



**HB-1683**

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 1:45:38 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Barbara Dalton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Low voter turnout in Hawaii is the result of many factors, not least of which is a deficiency in civics education in the public schools. As a sometime-teacher, student enthusiasm for the political process has astonished me when they begin to understand the power of their voice and advocate for issues meaningful to them. Studies have shown that voting is a habit that can be strongly ingrained if developed and encouraged early. What better setting to do that than the classroom? I support HB 163 because it will teach our youth the importance of civic engagement and voting, thus creating engaged future leaders and a strong, vibrant democracy.