

**HB-1941**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:35:30 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Keith Hayashi	Hawaii Department of Education	Comments	Yes

Comments:

Comments



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

**Date:** 02/08/2022

**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 1941 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires the department of education to establish grant programs to provide funds for the planning and implementation of community schools.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the idea of community schools but respectfully offer comments regarding the implementation of this bill.

The Department supports the idea of focusing on the whole child when providing an educational experience for our students. To do so requires the support of school staff and teachers as well as support from school families and communities. Open communication and collaboration is key in creating these valuable relationships which enrich the lives of our students and their surrounding communities.

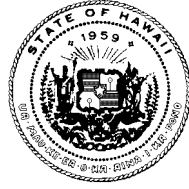
The Department is concerned that the grant program created by this bill is prescriptive in nature and may not meet the unique needs of its varied multi-faceted communities. The Department also does not currently know what the demand for a program like this is and, as such, would have difficulty determining the amount of resources that should be committed to this endeavor.

The Department would suggest a smaller pilot project as a way to further gauge community interest in a grant program such as this. A pilot project would help gain better understanding of the community's appetite for this type of program and would therefore help determine the resources that would be needed to properly implement this program.

Finally, if the decision is made to create this grant program, then the Department would appreciate an appropriation to fulfill that mandate.

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

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS  
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 6, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
House Committee on Education

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1941 – RELATING TO EDUCATION.**

Hearing: February 08, 2022, 2:00 p.m.  
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent, offers comments, and defers to the Department of Education.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to require the department of education to establish grant programs to provide funds for the planning and implementation of community schools.

The department appreciates that the continuing pandemic has impacted children's ability to engage and enjoy their grade school years. DHS acknowledges that school staff, parents, and caregivers have been under considerable stress to ensure children are safe in school and have the tools necessary to learn. The community school model strategizes to organize community resources needed for school students to thrive and excel and comes at a time when children and families need the support of their communities. The measure proposes a grant program to schools and organizations to plan and implement the community school model.

The department supports investments to strengthen communities, and the measure's underlying intent aligns with DHS administration measures HB2143/SB3111 to establish the Family Resource Center pilot program. These measures aim to create and expand community

hubs where families can access programs and services in familiar surroundings from those they already know and trust. In addition, these community-based models provide opportunities for families to increase social connections. Having positive social connections is an often overlooked protective factor. However, having friends and community members to turn to in a time of need is even more important during this time of reduced community activities and cautious social interactions.

Family resource centers are also part of broader child abuse and neglect prevention strategy. A 2018 study from the University of Chicago, Chapin Hall, compared child welfare investigation rates in similar Allegheny County neighborhoods. The study found that those with family support or resource centers had a lower rate of child abuse and neglect investigations than similar neighborhoods without family support centers. DHS supports this measure and envisions that where there are family resource centers, they will be a part of the nearest community school and vice versa.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

## Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance

1776 University Avenue, WA1-102  
Honolulu, HI 96822



House Committee on Education  
Representative Justin Woodson, Chair  
Representative Jeanné Kapela, Vice Chair

February 8, 2022  
Conference Room 309

RE: Support of HB1941 Relating to Education

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance supports HB1941 that would require the Department of Education to establish grant programs to provide funds for the planning and implementation of community schools.

In Hawai'i, full-service community schools are innovative, thriving hubs of learning in which partnerships and collaboration create a'o aku, a'o mai, reciprocal relationships between learners and place, content and context, and schools and communities. Through community schools, thriving learners, educators, families, 'āina, and communities are supported by nurturing networks that promote reciprocity. The community schools strategy transforms schools into innovative, thriving hubs of learning that incubate and connect Indigenous wisdom and contemporary knowledge to create and meet local and global opportunities.

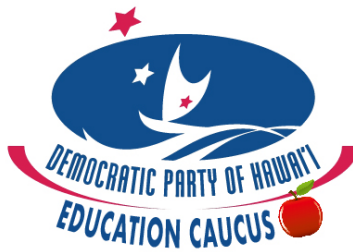
While the full effects of COVID-19 are still unknown, the pandemic has exacerbated existing stressors on youth and families in our communities, and we are already seeing the growing need for services and support for our most vulnerable children and families. This is why community schools are needed more than ever as schools must look to families, youth, and community partners to help address barriers to learning.

The coordination of relationships and resources are needed, now more than ever, to help students recover from the pandemic and accelerate equitable outcomes in health, education and employment. These school-community partnerships also yield a strong social return on investment, with one study finding that every dollar invested in such schools produced at least a \$10.30 return in social value. Another study found that for each \$1 invested in the community school coordinator position returned approximately \$7.11 net benefits.

We urge you to support this bill that would allow more schools to adopt and implement the community schools strategy and organize the resources in their community towards the success of learners, families, and communities.

Sincerely,

Paula Adams  
Executive Director  
Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance  
hawaiiafterschool@gmail.com  
[www.hawaiiafterschoolalliance.org](http://www.hawaiiafterschoolalliance.org)



## HOUSE BILL 1941, RELATING TO EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 8, 2022 · HOUSE EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE · CHAIR REP. JUSTIN H. WOODSON

**POSITION:** Support.

**RATIONALE:** The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus supports HB 1941, relating to education, which requires the Hawai'i Department of Education to establish grant programs to provide funds for the planning and implementation of community schools.

Legislators should invest in education programs that deliver wraparound care for students and deal with educational “inputs” that impact student success, like poverty and access to healthcare. An example of such a program is the community schools model of education, which as noted in Hawai'i's Consolidated State Plan under the Every Student Succeeds Act, is a research-based strategy for school improvement that emphasizes high-quality teaching, culturally relevant curricula, wraparound student supports, positive disciplinary practices and restorative justice, parent and community engagement, and inclusive school leadership. **Community schools programs may be instrumental in uplifting the social and emotional learning and healthcare of students as we continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

In prioritizing student wellness, community schools have been shown to increase learning growth and graduation rates, while decreasing behavioral referrals and chronic absenteeism. In New York City, for example, community schools that highlight mental health counseling and consistent

family outreach have seen chronic absenteeism rates fall by 7.8 percent as of 2017, with graduation rates rising 4.8 percent. Engaged learners are more like to acquire the skills necessary to become active citizens and productive members of the workforce. Additionally, since even the most affluent and well-adjusted children face challenges in their maturation processes, guaranteeing that schools have the resources to respond to childhood pressures and trauma with compassion and sensitivity may make the difference between sending a student to college or losing them to social threats, like addiction or our state's prolific sex trade.

To use the case study of sexual wellness, community schools can partner with service providers to run modern sexual health programs that model positive relationships and tackle tough issues, like sexual consent. These programs don't just prevent young women from becoming victims of gender violence. They also teach young men about healthy forms of masculinity that aren't predicated on dominance and physical aggression, ultimately cutting down on acts of aggression in school settings and Hawai'i's violent crime rates.

Launching community schools will require additional money. Yet, their capacity to address a wide range of student needs and help remedy longstanding social problems make their execution an achievement for which education leaders should strive high.

**Kris Coffield · Chairperson, DPH Education Caucus · (808) 679-7454 · [kriscoffield@gmail.com](mailto:kriscoffield@gmail.com)**





Hawaii  
**Children's Action Network Speaks!**  
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

*Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.*

To: Representative Woodson, Chair  
Representative Kapela, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Education

Re: **HB 1941-relating to education**  
2:00 PM, February 8, 2022

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and committee members,

**On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing in support of HB 1941, relating to education.**

Community schools have the potential to better support students and their families. Community school partnerships can offer additional services needed in the community and builds from previous successes like using schools for testing sites, for food distribution, or for mobile health outreach. The community school strategy transforms schools into innovative, thriving hubs of learning that incubate and connect Indigenous wisdom and contemporary knowledge to create and meet local and global opportunities.

There are currently over 1,000 community schools across the continental United States.<sup>1</sup> Since 2010, school districts have been partnering with various stakeholders to stand up community schools and ensure students and their families have their needs met. A study on the New York City Community School Initiative found<sup>2</sup>:

- A positive impact on student attendance in all grades
- Positive impact on high school students' graduation rates
- A positive effect on students' sense of connectedness to adults and peers for elementary and middle school students

This last finding is of particular importance as we know students have felt isolated during the pandemic.

The coordination of relationships and resources are needed, now more than ever, to help students recover from the pandemic and accelerate equitable outcomes in health, education and employment.

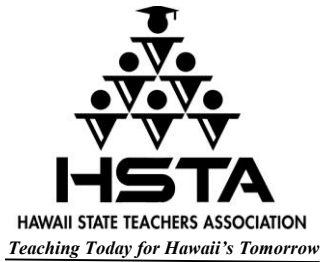
For these reasons, I respectfully request the committee vote favorable on HB 1941 and pass the measure.

Thank you,  
Kathleen Algire  
Director of Early Learning and Health Policy

---

<sup>1</sup> National Education Association, Community Schools, <https://www.nea.org/student-success/great-public-schools/community-schools>

<sup>2</sup> Johnston, William R., John Engberg, Isaac M. Opper, Lisa Sontag-Padilla, and Lea Xenakis, Illustrating the Promise of Community Schools: An Assessment of the Impact of the New York City Community Schools Initiative. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2020.  
[https://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_reports/RR3245.html](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR3245.html)



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Osa Tui, Jr.  
President

Logan Okita.  
Vice President

Lisa Morrison  
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck  
Executive Director

## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: HB 1941 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2022

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Woodson, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 1941** relating to education.

This bill will require the Department of Education to establish grant programs to provide funds for the planning and implementation of community schools.

We support the network of services envisioned in the community schools model with wraparound services, like health care, and amplifies social services' access to school campuses. In employing high quality teaching and culturally sensitive curricula, prioritizing restorative justice, and highlighting community engagement, community schools have been shown to increase graduation rates and college enrollment, while decreasing behavioral referrals and health risks. Under the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, up to 7 percent of Title I funding may be used to uplift our state's lowest performing 5 percent of schools. Allowing these grants will allow more investments in community schools that would empower teachers to become change agents in addressing community needs and provide invaluable services to vulnerable keiki.

Community schools provide not only tremendous opportunities for learning and success for students, but they also offer hope, opportunity, and transformation to entire communities. They are schools built with the understanding that students often come to the classroom with challenges that impact their ability to learn, explore, and develop to their greatest potential. Because learning never happens in isolation, community schools provide free healthy meals, health care, tutoring, mental health counseling, and other tailored services before, during, and after school.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support this bill**.

Date: February 7, 2022

To: House Committee on Education  
The Honorable Justin Woodson, Chair  
The Honorable Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair  
And members of the Committee

From: Early Childhood Action Strategy

Re: **Support for HB 1941, Relating to Community Schools**

---

Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) is a statewide cross-sector partnership designed to improve the system of care for Hawai'i's youngest children and their families. ECAS partners are working to align priorities for children prenatal to age eight, streamline services, maximize resources, and improve programs to support our youngest keiki.

**ECAS supports passage of HB 1941.** This bill will would require the Department of Education to establish grant programs to provide funds for the planning and implementation of community schools.

In Hawai'i, full-service community schools are innovative, thriving hubs of learning in which partnerships and collaboration create a'o aku, a'o mai, reciprocal relationships between learners and place, content and context, and schools and communities. Through community schools, thriving learners, educators, families, 'āina, and communities are supported by nurturing networks that promote reciprocity. The community schools strategy transforms schools into innovative, thriving hubs of learning that incubate and connect Indigenous wisdom and contemporary knowledge to create and meet local and global opportunities.

While the full effects of COVID-19 are still unknown, the pandemic has exacerbated existing stressors on youth and families in our communities, and we are already seeing the growing need for services and support for our most vulnerable children and families. This is why community schools are needed more than ever as schools must look to families, youth, and community partners to help address barriers to learning.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

**HB-1941**

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 11:50:54 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Lauralee Baoy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and members of the Committee,

I support HB1941 that would require the Department of Education to establish grant programs to provide funds for the planning and implementation of community schools.

In Hawai‘i, full-service community schools are innovative, thriving hubs of learning in which partnerships and collaboration create a‘o aku, a‘o mai, reciprocal relationships between learners and place, content and context, and schools and communities. Through community schools, thriving learners, educators, families, ‘āina, and communities are supported by nurturing networks that promote reciprocity. The community schools strategy transforms schools into innovative, thriving hubs of learning that incubate and connect Indigenous wisdom and contemporary knowledge to create and meet local and global opportunities.

While the full effects of COVID-19 are still unknown, the pandemic has exacerbated existing stressors on youth and families in our communities, and we are already seeing the growing need for services and support for our most vulnerable children and families. This is why community schools are needed more than ever as schools must look to families, youth, and community partners to help address barriers to learning.

I have seen first hand how the youth that I work with in Kalihi at our Community Teen Program at Parents and Children together have been affected by the pandemic. Many youth feel lost or feel a loss of motivation to do well in school. Many also struggle with their own feelings regarding the pandemic and still hold on to fear and helplessness. Some have experienced loss of a loved-one or have a friend who has. Youth need our help to give them every opportunity to be successful.

I urge you to support this bill that would allow more schools to adopt and implement the community schools strategy and organize the resources in their community towards the success of learners, families, and communities.

**HB-1941**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 1:37:38 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Ross Pagat	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

House Committee on Education

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Jeanné Kapela, Vice Chair

February 8, 2022

Conference Room 309

RE: Support of HB1941 Relating to Education

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and members of the Committee,

I Ross Pagat supports HB1941 that would require the Department of Education to establish grant programs to provide funds for the planning and implementation of community schools.

In Hawai‘i, full-service community schools could be a way to bring all stakeholders together and work together to support the whole child and not just academically. It’s a way for the community to start building stronger relationships because who else knows their community better than the people who live in them. The schools along with parents/guardians and community partners have an opportunity to share each other’s strengths and use them to support one another. It’s all about working together!!

I've been helping the Kohala Complex Schools with this community school model and it has shown to be beneficial with building stronger relationships between the schools and families as well as the schools and community partners. These relationships and partnerships have been utilized to fill in gaps that are missing which include counseling services, drug and alcohol recovery, food distributions, parent teacher home visits, financial assistance and Covid testing/vaccinations.

While the full effects of COVID-19 are still unknown, the pandemic has exacerbated existing stressors on youth and families in our communities, and we are already seeing the growing need for services and support for our most vulnerable children and families. This is why community schools are needed more than ever as schools must look to families, youth, and community partners to help address barriers to learning.

Funding is needed to support Full Service Community Schools so this strategy can help all schools who want a community school. The funds can help support the four pillars of a community school which are Expanded Learning Opportunities, Collaborative Leadership and Practices, Active Family and Community Engagement, and Integrated Student Supports.

I Ross Pagat urge you to support this bill that would allow more schools to adopt and implement the community schools strategy and organize the resources in their community towards the success of learners, families, and communities.

Sincerely,

Ross Pagat

**HB-1941**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 4:06:19 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kathleen O'Dell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**House Committee on Education**

**Representative Justin Woodson, Chair**

**Representative Jeanné Kapela, Vice Chair**

**February 8, 2022**

**Conference Room 309**

**RE: Support of HB1941 Relating to Education**

**Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and members of the Committee,**

**I support HB1941 that would require the Department of Education to establish grant programs to provide funds for the planning and implementation of community schools.**

**In Hawai‘i, full-service community schools are innovative, thriving hubs of learning in which partnerships and collaboration create a‘o aku, a‘o mai, reciprocal relationships between learners and place, content and context, and schools and communities. Through community schools, thriving learners, educators, families, ‘āina, and communities are supported by nurturing networks that promote reciprocity. The community schools strategy transforms schools into innovative, thriving hubs of learning that incubate and connect Indigenous wisdom and contemporary knowledge to create and meet local and global opportunities.**

**While the full effects of COVID-19 are still unknown, the pandemic has exacerbated existing stressors on youth and families in our communities, and we are already seeing the growing need for services and support for our most vulnerable children and families. This is why community schools are needed more than ever as schools must look to families, youth, and community partners to help address barriers to learning.**

**Not all of our schools even have Parent Coordinator Network Centers (PCNCs). The work around family engagement in our schools is siloed and often reactive rather than proactive. There are many outstanding community organizations ready and willing to partner with schools and families to help our children succeed. They need the opportunity. The coordination of relationships and resources are needed, now more than ever, to help students recover from the pandemic and accelerate equitable outcomes in health, education and employment.**

**I urge you to support this bill that would allow more schools to adopt and implement the community schools strategy and organize the resources in their community towards the success of learners, families, and communities.**

**Sincerely,**



*Kathleen O'Dell*

**Kathleen O'Dell, PhD**