

Committees: House Higher Education/House Education

Date: January 31, 2013

Re: HB 719 Relating to Education

Mr. Chairpersons, I am Joan Lee Husted, the former executive director of the Hawaii State Teachers Association and a member of the HEPC Senior Advisory Group.

I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 719. Because of the critical importance that education has in our community, the role of the Hawaii Educational Policy Center continues to be of high value. Having an agency such as this to objectively research and evaluate education issues is essential so all parties can make key and important decisions for Hawaii's citizens based on objective data and evaluation. During my tenure at HSTA, I found many of the reports of the Center to be invaluable because of their emphasis on education in Hawaii. The research quality was first rate and the depth of the work impressive.

HB 719 provides will help build capacity in order to continue to provide service to Hawaii's decision makers. I strongly urge the passage of HB719.

Respectfully Submitted

Joan Lee Husted
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HAWAI'I EDUCATIONAL POLICY CENTER TESTIMONY

Presented by Jim Shon, Director
Hawaii Educational Policy Center
January 31, 2013

COMMITTEES: House Higher Education/ House Education
DATE: January 31, 2013
TIME: 2 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 309

RE: HB 719 RELATING TO EDUCATION

POSITION: HEPC supports this bill to build HEPC's capacity to serve Hawaii's decision makers.

COMMENTS:

Purpose and Mission

The purpose of the Hawaii Educational Policy Center (HEPC) is to provide objective, data-based information in the form of policy briefs, reports, articles, and forums bearing on public and private education policy and practices at all levels. The target audiences for HEPC publications and events are educators, policymakers, and other education stakeholders in the State of Hawaii.

HEPC conducts, sponsors, commissions, and/or coordinates analytical studies that inform policy discussions. Examples of issues that are addressed include:

- Performance-based assessments
- Teacher Resignations
- State financial support for public education
- Declining enrollments at the University of Hawai'i
- Implementing health education standards
- Readiness of children to succeed in school
- Feasibility of establishing a K-16 student data system
- Middle-level education in Hawai'i
- Characteristics of upper division dropouts at UH Manoa

The HEPC provides the infrastructure to support data-based decision-making and uses data sources such as the U.S. Census, National Center for Educational Statistics, Public Welfare, and the Hawai'i State Department of Education.

HEPC recognizes that the Hawaii Department of Education and the University of Hawaii are among the largest public institutions in our State. Understanding the issues and policy challenges of the DOE and UH are of importance to decision makers, researchers, and stakeholders throughout the community.

HEPC is requesting capacity funding of \$150,000 per year, which will allow HEPC to ramp up its ability to retain expert research and staff to assist policy makers in Hawaii. Currently, HEPC is benefitting from some capacity support through the UH College of Education. However, this is not sustainable in the long run, and is not enough to add staff.

HEPC has produced reports requested by the Legislature in the past and looks forward to exploring opportunities to be of service in the near future.

Members of the HEPC Senior Advisory Group are the following:

HEPC Senior Advisory Group

Kathleen Berg, Director, Curriculum Research & Development Group

Terance Bigalke, Director, East West Center Education Program, East West Center

Susan Chandler, Director, College of Social Sciences Public Policy Center, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Joan Husted, former Executive Director, Hawaii State Teachers Association

Meda Chesney Lind, Professor, Women's Studies, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Warren Nishimoto, Director, Center for Oral History, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Edward J. Shultz, Dean, School of Pacific and Asian Studies, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Liam Skilling, Director of the Part-Time JD Program and Academic Assistance, Lecturer in Law, University of Hawaii at Manoa, William S. Richardson School of Law

Katherine Tibbetts, Principal Research Associate, Kamehameha Schools

Charles Toguchi, former Hawaii Superintendent of Education

Donald Young, Dean, College of Education, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Our newly upgraded Web site: <https://coe.hawaii.edu//>

Among the major reports HEPC and its affiliated researchers have conducted (available on its web site) are:

A Policy History of Standards-based Education Reform in Hawaii;

Standards-based Education Reform in the United States since "A Nation at Risk";

Report To The Legislature On Senate Concurrent Resolution 118 Sd1 Hd1 – Improving The Community’s Understanding Of The Department Of Education’s Programs And School Expenses Including A Comparison With Other States On Adequacy Of Funds;

Interim Report to the Legislature on Senate Concurrent Resolution 56 S.D. 1 Requesting the HEPC to Report on the Retention and Change in Assignment of Teachers within the Department of Education;

Middle Level Grade Configuration: Impact on Hawai‘i’s Schools;

Hawaii Department of Education Survey on Education for Military Families in Hawaii.

Reinventing Education (Act 51) Reports

- [Implementing the Reinventing Education Act of 2004](#), Sep 2004
- [Single School Calendar for Hawaii’s Public School](#), Oct 2004
- [Changes in Education Management](#), Jan 2005
- [Act 51 Requires Change](#), Dec 2004
- [Weighted Student Formula](#), Feb 2005
- [Principal Discretionary Budget Control](#), Mar 2005
- [Does the Principal as CEO Analogy Work?](#), Mar 2005

Presented by Edward J. Shultz

Hawaii Educational Policy Center

January 31, 2013

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RE: HB 719 RELATING TO EDUCATION

POSITION: Personally supports this bill to build HEPC's capacity to serve Hawaii's decision makers.

As decision makers are inundated with an overload of facts and figures, a policy center is needed to help provide data driven information on current policies and actions happening every day in education.

Independent analysis by individuals not employed by our education units is necessary to provide objective and hopefully value free insights in the state of education today. A policy center can provide this background by retaining individuals free from possible conflicts of interest.

HEPC has a solid track record of producing this type of analysis and should be continued.

Sound educational policy decisions are critical to our ability to improve the quality of educational outcomes for Hawai'i's public school students and for the social and economic future of Hawai'i. The charge to Hawai'i Educational Policy Center (HEPC) is to provide objective, data-based information in the form of policy briefs, reports, articles, and forums bearing on public and private education policy and practices at all levels. The target audiences for HEPC publications and events are educators, policymakers, and other education stakeholders in the State of Hawai'i.

As a professional educational researcher, I know that when this type of information is not readily available well-intentioned decision-makers are left to rely on anecdotes and their experiences as students, which may or may not represent effective policies and practices.

The issues confronting educational reformers today are complex. The decisions policy makers will confront in their efforts to improve public education in Hawai'i have incredibly high stakes for our future. I strongly urge you to support the funding of the HEPC to ensure this group can continue to support your efforts to promote sound educational improvement policy in Hawai'i.

Personal Written Testimony
presented before the
House Committee on Education
and
House Committee on Higher Education
by
Donald B. Young

RE: HB 719 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and Members of the Committee on Education;
Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama and Members of the Committee on Higher Education

My name is Donald Young. I am currently Dean of the College of Education at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I have formerly served as Director of the Hawai'i Educational Policy Center (HEPC). Today I am providing personal testimony not in my official capacity as Dean or representing the University of Hawai'i.

I strongly support funding for HEPC. As a former director, as well as a long-term director of the College of Education's Curriculum Research & Development Group, I found that the existence of an objective, data-driven voice in the development of educational laws and policies to be very helpful.

It is often difficult to impossible for those working within our largest educational institutions to step back and spend time looking at their programs with objectivity and knowledge of what may be occurring throughout the county. HEPC offers us this perspective and opportunity.

HEPC has been a respected partner with the Hawai'i Department of Education, the University of Hawai'i, and the larger educational community in providing needed research, policy analysis, and reports on high priority topics.

Currently, the new Director and his new Senior Advisory Group have been working to enhance and expand the capacity of the Center to serve decision makers. HEPC needs your support to carry on its mission.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

My name is Warren Nishimoto. I am the director of the Center for Oral History at UH-Manoa, and serve as a cooperating graduate faculty member in the College of Education, also at UH-Manoa. I am, however, not submitting this testimony in any official UH capacity.

I have worked with aspiring teachers in the College of Education, teaching them qualitative research methods as they research, write, and defend their theses and dissertations. The majority of these research projects involve educational policy issues, particularly school reform related to multiculturalism and language immersion.

These important policy issues impacting our local students need to be assessed using qualitative (e.g., interviews with administrators, teachers, and students; participant observation, etc.) research methods, as well as quantitative (e.g., hypothesis-testing and data-gathering) research methods.

I strongly feel that the Hawaii Educational Policy Center, which has served as a non-biased, community-based, scholarly clearinghouse for such research, serves our community to ensure that educational policy research continues and is disseminated widely to stakeholders and policy-makers.

Please consider this bill for passage.