

SCR30

Measure Title: REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO SUPPORT THE KIDS' SAVINGS PROJECT.

Report Title: Kids' Savings Project; Department of Education

Description:

Companion:

Package: Keiki Caucus

Current Referral: EDU

Introducer(s): CHUN OAKLAND, GALUTERIA, KEITH-AGARAN, KIDANI, RUDERMAN, Kim

<u>Sort by Date</u>		Status Text
2/23/2015	S	Offered.
3/5/2015	S	Referred to EDU.
3/13/2015	S	The committee(s) on EDU has scheduled a public hearing on 03-18-15 1:30PM in conference room 229.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 03/18/2015
Time: 01:30 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: SCR 030 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO SUPPORT THE KIDS' SAVINGS PROJECT.

Purpose of Resolution:

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SCR 30 and recognizes the benefits the Kids' Savings Project offers to elementary students in Hawaii.



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

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March 17, 2015

To: The Honorable Gil Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2015
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 016, State Capitol

From: Office of Community Services (OCS)
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)
Elaine N. Young, Acting Director DLIR

Re: Senate Concurrent Resolution 23/Senate Resolution 6

**REQUESTING THE HAWAII ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION TO
ASSEMBLE VARIOUS STATE AND COMMUNITY ENTITIES TO
DETERMINE WHICH AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION SHOULD
ADMINISTER FUNDING FOR CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES TO THE LOW-
AND MODERATE-INCOME.**

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The resolutions request the Hawaii Access to Justice Commission to convene various government and community groups to develop a plan to determine which agency or organization should administer funding for civil legal services to low-income and moderate-income persons, and report back to the 2016 Legislature.

The resolutions note that State funding for such services in previous years has variously been in the form of Grants-in-Aid to identified non-profit organizations, and in the form of appropriations to State agencies for which purchase of services (POS) contracts were issued.

The measures also note that the Office of Community Services (OCS), which is administratively attached to the DLIR, administered appropriations for civil legal services for some thirty years and that grants-in-aid have been appropriated by the Legislature for some twenty years to various legal services organizations.

The measures state great importance that access to civil legal services can have for people and observe with concern that available funding for such services derived from court fees has dropped precipitously in recent years.

COMMENTS ON THE RESOLUTIONS

OCS agrees with the concerns expressed in the measures and is willing to serve on the proposed working group.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Wednesday, March 18, 2015 — 1:30 p.m. — Room 229

I Strongly Support SCR 30, Relating to the Kids' Saving Project

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Harimoto, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Brandon Lee and **I strongly support SCR 30**, which requests the Department of Education to support a school-based program that partners with local financial institutions to establish savings accounts for students.

Money, and our ability to earn it and manage it, plays an overwhelming part of our daily lives. The key to navigating each of our individual financial future is through financial literacy. Yet, every journey begins with a first step and for most people, that first step is opening a savings account and depositing their first initial funds. Over time, a young person will be able to watch their money grow and have a real-world example of the benefits of savings and compounding.

I believe we hold more value to the things in life that we have truly worked hard for and earned, because it represents the item itself but also all of the sacrifices required. A person who understands this lesson and executes it in their daily lives will associate their sense of pride from accomplishing their goal with the financial discipline it took. When that child gets older, they will eventually need to purchase larger expenditures such as a home, college education, and build a retirement account. However, once a child successfully learns to appreciate saving, they are much more likely to be able to work toward their hopes and dreams with a realistic gameplan. If executed, this program will be some of the most impactful funds the State has spent.

As a public policy tool, a well informed and financially smart public will make it easier to solve long-term poverty issues, reduce housing and human service issues, and develop more successful local entrepreneurs.

I urge this committee to pass this bill to help every future Hawai'i resident.

Respectfully,

Brandon Lee
Email: bran1322@yahoo.com