

# SCR99 / SR53

Measure Title: REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ALLOW TEACHERS TO USE PURCHASING CARDS WHEN PURCHASING SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND OTHER RELATED CURRICULUM SUPPORT SUPPLIES.

Report Title: Department of Education; Purchasing Cards; Teachers

Description:

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: EDU, WAM

Introducer(s): KIDANI, Harimoto, Inouye, Kouchi, Nishihara, Tokuda

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



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

**Date:** 03/30/2015  
**Time:** 01:15 PM  
**Location:** 229  
**Committee:** Senate Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Resolution:** SCR 099 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ALLOW TEACHERS TO USE PURCHASING CARDS WHEN PURCHASING SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND OTHER RELATED CURRICULUM SUPPORT SUPPLIES.

**Purpose of Resolution:** To allow teachers, by request, to use purchasing cards to purchase necessary supplies and other related curriculum support supplies and eliminate the time required to obtain a product and the time lag for reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (DOE) appreciates the intent of SCR 99 in making classroom and school related purchases less cumbersome for the approximately 13,000 teachers statewide. However, the department requests sufficient opportunity to conduct a more extensive management analysis with external and internal stakeholders to consider viability, planning, and funding impact surrounding this initiative.

To this end, the DOE has had an initial meeting with the State Procurement Office (SPO). For the intended purpose of this concurrent resolution, SPO has recommended using a Declining Balance purchase Card (DBpC) rather the conventional Purchasing Card (P-Card). Unlike a P-Card, which works like a credit card, the DBpC is preloaded with a specified dollar amount so it limits the spending of the cardholder to control expenses. In addition, the DBpC allows for better expenditure tracking and documentation.

Should this measure be passed, the department requests the following amendments:

- 1) Inclusion of the word 'consider' be included as part of the request to the department;
- 2) Substitute "Declining Balance purchase Card" lieu of "Purchasing cards" throughout the proposed concurrent resolution; and
- 3) Inclusion of language requiring school impact and budget impact analysis be included as part of the determination of the viability of this initiative.

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





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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2015

RE: SCR 99 / SR 53

PERSON TESTIFYING: JOAN LEWIS, VICE PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Harimoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i State Teachers' Association (HSTA) **supports SCR 99 / SR 53** requesting the Department of Education to allow teachers to use purchasing cards when purchasing school supplies and other related curriculum support supplies.

Hawai'i's public and public charter school teachers are able to find the best products for their students using the least amount of money possible. This particular skill is no doubt a result of years of experience buying supplies with their own hard earned dollars. If there is a way to make a single dollar spend like two dollars, Hawai'i's teachers know how to make it happen.

If teachers had access to purchasing cards that could be loaded in their names with spending tracked to them, it would be possible for teachers to maximize provided funds in a manner that allows for best value in purchasing of supplies and equipment for their classrooms.

HSTA supports this measure in that it makes good financial sense and rightly puts spending for classrooms in the hand of those who must make best use of every item purchased.

HSTA **supports SCR 99 / SR 53.**