



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

Corey Rosenlee
President

Osa Tui Jr.
Vice President

Logan Okita
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOWER & HIGHER EDUCATION

RE: HB 2150 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports HB 2150, relating to education.

This bill would require the DOE to employ at least one full-time equivalent teacher for each grade level in grades kindergarten through six in each public school with a student enrollment of one hundred fifty or less students, excluding charter schools, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year. This bill also appropriates funds to do so.

Since the passage of Act 51 in 2004, Hawai'i has experimented with a weighted student formula (WSF) to equalize school funding, intended to make funding for public education more equitable, transparent, and decentralized. WSF had the unintended consequence of limiting academic programming for children in small and rural schools with limited student enrollment, thus limited funds received through the weighted student formula. A recent report commissioned by the Hawai'i Department of Education and completed by the American Institutes of Research reveals that "small or isolated schools do not have adequate funding under WSF and that the formula does not account adequately for diseconomies of scale associated with small schools or for additional costs due to geographic isolation."

Small and geographically remote schools sometimes lack sufficient funds to cover programming above and beyond basic operations. Isolated communities lack the economic breadth available to their urban counterparts, while experiencing distance from essential services and less access to technology. The AIR, therefore, suggested that "extra support" be provided to schools that are small or isolated, including a recalculation of WSF to "accurately account for the differential costs of providing an



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equal opportunity for all students to achieve, regardless of their individual needs or circumstances (such as geographic location).”

Because student populations at remote and small schools vary dramatically from year to year, funding for positions at such schools also changes annually, creating turbulence in staff requirements and course offerings. Challenges faced by small and remote schools because of inadequate WSF funding include staffing shortages, cutbacks to courses, a lack of librarians, and more. At times, such schools do not have teachers to staff every grade level, if the school is an elementary school, or all core classes, if the school is a secondary school, presenting problems in the provision of minimum educational requirements to students. We cannot allow these schools to continue to struggle because of enrollment and geographical factors beyond their control.

To provide all of Hawai'i's children with access to a quality education, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.

HB-2150

Submitted on: 2/2/2020 8:27:14 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Alexandra Obra | Individual | Support | Yes |

Comments:

HB-2150

Submitted on: 2/2/2020 9:01:36 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Matt Ho | State of Hawai`i, Department of Education | Support | No |

Comments:

As the Complex Area Superintendent of the Castle-Kahuku Complex Area, I support HB2150 as this will directly impact two of my smallest schools: WaiĀhole and Ka'a'awa Elementary Schools.

A small school provides a more individualized educational experience for the students, further developed relationships between the students and parents with the school and faculty, and a positive learning environment promoting ownership and the power of individual voice. Unfortunately however, our small schools face the obstacle of limited financial resources due to our weighted student formula.

HB2150 defines a "small school" with a student enrollment of 150 students or less, and will ensure that one full-time teacher shall be in each grade level K-6. HB2150 also supports the recommendation by the Committee of Weights XI which stated the need to identify a "threshold" or number of students per school to determine an individual school's viability.

To fund the one teacher per grade level K-6, I would want to also ensure that these funds are provided by a new appropriation source, and not funded by the school's weighted student formula, complex area funds, or other sources of funds currently in the Department.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB2150.

HB-2150

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 6:32:21 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Laverne Tokunaga Tarumoto | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support HB2150. I am a resident of Waiahole Valley and graduate of Waiahole School. Without the support of my teachers who had time to take an interest in me personally I would never have become an educator. Allow our teachers time and resources to allow children to become successful citizens of Hawaii.

HB-2150

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 9:50:39 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Lucy Salas | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2150

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 10:24:15 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Chriselda Lopes | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support HB2150. All small schools deserve one teacher per grade level.

HB-2150

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 10:35:55 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Nikki Morishige | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

My name is Nikki Morishige, and I am the Academic Coach at Waiahole Elementary. I am writing in support of HI2150.

Regardless of school-size, every student deserves instruction that meets his/her needs. This is difficult to do when teachers must teach in combo classes. In our school, we have a combo 5th/6th teacher. It's not a simple matter of differentiation that these students need...when looking at our math standards, the concepts that we need our students to deeply understand in 5th grade become the building blocks for those in 6th. When teaching a combo grade, neither set of standards are given the level, depth, and time that they deserve. How, then, are we developing a successful and solid foundation upon which our students will carry with them going forward? Every student deserves to have instruction that is appropriate for their stage of development and learning needs. This means that every school needs to have, at minimum, one teacher per grade-level.

HB-2150

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 10:37:12 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Penny Rapoza | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support HB 2150. All small schools deserve one teacher per grade level.

Small Schools Bill - HB 2150

Aloha

My father was a principal at King Intermediate School and farmer in Waikane Valley. So education and agriculture is in my D.N.A. Since I retired from the D.O.E. and left the U.S.D.A. for advocacy, I started attending town hall and committee meetings of the Waiahole Waikane Community Association.

The two scenarios that I have heard so far is to:

1. Consider keeping the school open because of the cultural value of the integrated teaching and activities there.
2. Designing a site for a community center, school and comprehensive emergency shelter.

My thoughts, that I have not shared with the WWCA is a site for a school and D.O.E. Windward District offices. If the governor's plan is for most complexes to have middle schools, King Intermediate will need to accommodate sixth graders from eight feeder elementary schools. The W.D.O. will have to vacate the three story building which was built in the 1970s for the future S.W. King High School. So like Koko Head, Wilson and Benjamin Parker, one scenario is using Waiahole School for translocated district personnel and services.

There are others, but these three scenarios are worthy of saving the school and facility in light of the value of culture-based learning, increased storms due to climate change and long term D.O.E. design.

Mahalo

Sam Kakazu

(808) 349-7462

HB-2150

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 11:11:29 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Micah Brigoli | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support HB2150, it will allow our smaller public school educators a chance to provide the best education that they possibly can to our keiki. I know for our smaller schools the necessary resources to teach are harder to come by and they must resort to buying a lot of material out of pocket which in turn puts a financial strain on them. I hope that we move forward with this bill and show our Hawaii educators in our smaller schools that they are not forgotten and we do appreciate and support their efforts to ensure that our future generations will be prepared to lead the state of Hawaii into a brighter tomorrow.

HB-2150

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 12:35:02 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| pprapoza@gmail.com | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am in support of HB2150. Every student deserve to have a teacher at their own grade level to support their needs.

Mahalo,

Penny Rapoza

HB-2150

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 1:14:17 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Melissa Drew | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2150

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 1:34:34 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Kathryn Hurd | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I, Kathryn Hurd, mother of a 1st grade student at Waiahole Elementary School, strongly support HB2150. Small schools are important to our community. Small schools are in need of everyone's support to continue to provide quality education to some of Hawaii's most at-risk keiki. Small schools are already creative in how they use their resources, and just a tiny bit more help, financially, will certainly go a long way. It is not uncommon for the principal to stay with the after-school kids until everyone has been picked-up, so other staff do not have to stay late and accumulate over-time hours or to serve lunch in the cafeteria, if staff are out sick. Infact, every staff member goes above and beyond, wearing multiple hats to "make it work" at Waiahole Elementary. In my opinion, what they are doing with their small school and limited resources IS working- but they need the support of the community and State to keep it up! The kids are happy and healthy- everyone knows everyone- literally- and there is rarely an incident of bullying on the small (>90 student) campus. Kids get individual attention and benefit from small class sizes by getting personalized attention from staff. Hawaiian culture, arts, and crafts are introduced to these small school populations with enrichment activities coming from partnerships that the principal has established with 21st Century learning, Kristy Yamahuchi (Raising a Reader), and the Kanehunamoku Voyaging programs- as well as connections with local farmers and community members. It takes a village to raise a keiki- and these small schools are getting it right! Please help to support the dedicated teachers, staff, and students of these special learning places- Hawaii's small and chartered schools- they are going to make a big difference in some of Hawaii's most at-risk keiki's lives! When can funding our children's future ever be a bad thing!?

Please take my full support of HB2150,

Kathryn Hurd
M.S. Microbiology



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

LATE

Date: 02/04/2020

Time: 02:30 PM

Location: 309

Committee: House Lower & Higher
Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2150 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the DOE to employ at least one full-time equivalent teacher for each grade level in grades kindergarten through six in each public school with a student enrollment of one hundred fifty or less students, excluding charter schools, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year. Appropriates funds.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of this bill to the extent that it seeks additional funding for small schools.

As written, the bill removes the flexibility of principals to staff their schools based upon the unique characteristics of each school. This bill will impact nine schools, after applying the definition of small schools and removing specialty schools that have separate funding sources (e.g., Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind and Olomana School).

The Department's Committee on Weights has consistently acknowledged the needs of small schools and currently provides base funding as part of the Weighted Student Formula (WSF) to support small schools. This allows the school to have the necessary staff to support their schools' needs without having to set aside additional WSF funds to cover these positions.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.

HB-2150

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 5:34:09 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 2:30:00 PM

LATE

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Elton Kinoshita | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I would like to testify on behalf of HB2150 to support "small schools." I am a current principal of a neighbor island DOE K-12 school. While I understand that there are financial considerations, efficiency through economies of scale as an example, that often drive our decisionmaking, I also understand that all communities need to know that they "matter" in spite of their small numbers. Each school in Hawaii has unique circumstances as well as a unique history. As our schools begin the School Design process, let us honor this work and commit to supporting all existing schools. Let's work to build partnerships that might help offset the relatively high costs associated with smaller schools. The new focus on commercialism in public schools might be a start to finding other ways to supplement these costs. Let's give smaller schools the time to develop such partnerships. Thank you.

Elton Kinoshita, Principal

Lanai High & Elementary School

LATE

HB-2150

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 4:40:44 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| John L. Reppun | KEY Project (501C3 Non-profit) | Support | Yes |

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members:

Please accept our testimony in strong support of the subject measure. KEY Project has served the communities residing in Northern Ko'olaupoko and Ko'olauloa for the past 50 years, working in close collaboration with community organizations, resident and farm families in each of the many ahupua'a throughout this lengthy coastal area. Our work has often and continues to be by providing support for the small schools in our service area, directly or indirectly. Collectively, over these many years, we have relied upon the various venues - from the schools themselves and their unique character(s) and our own community center on Waihe'e Road (just below Kahalu'u Elementary School) - as excellent learning sites, entry points for youth and adults alike to identify with their own ahupua'a and to be able to host those who come to those venues or, through them, to the rich areas they represent. Each has its own unique handle on natural, cultural, environmental, recreational and educational attributes. "Small Schools", such as those that will benefit from passage of this bill are far more than just schools; they are gathering places and serve a far larger population than just those who happen to be attending in any given year. Like KEY Project, they are community centers, a "port in a storm" (with high potential for serving, to a much greater extent than currently acknowledged, as Emergency Shelters). They are Learning Centers with excellent potential for expansion and must be looked upon as such - not just a small school with high overhead.

Waiahole is an excellent example of a community that has and is taking its future into its own hands, stepping up to the roundtable at which many others - including government entities - are and will be seated, helping to craft a Strategic Plan that will be an excellent template from which other might learn. Similarly, communities in Ko'olauloa are working on community plans within which these small schools and their facilities will play an important role.

On behalf of KEY Project, its current Executive Director Auli'i Dudoit and our dedicated Board of Directors (including those who have volunteered over five decades) we urge this body to provide strong support, creative thinking upon which to build a future for the

schools that will be affected. This will be funding well spent and a benefit to the entire island and State of Hawaii.

John L. Reppun

Community Resource & Development

Executive Director Emeritus

February 3, 2020

Lower & Higher Education Committee
Chair Justin H. Woodson
Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
Vice Chair Sean Quinaln

LATE

RE: In support of HB2150

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, and Vice Chair Quinlan,

My name is Donna Kawasaki and I am the 5th and 6th grade teacher at Waiahole Elementary School.

I am in support of HB2150 because every student deserves to have a teacher that can dedicate themselves and focus on one grade level's requirements.

This is the first time that I have taught multiple grade levels as a single class. While multi-age or composite classrooms may have its benefits, it lends itself towards certain subject areas. I was able to manage the multi-age class when teaching social studies and science, but found it very difficult dividing my time between the two groups when instructing math and English. Multi-age classrooms are also created based on a school's pedagogical choice. Without the necessary funding, it no longer becomes a school's choice, but a necessity.

Members of the Lower and Higher Education Committee, I urge you to vote in favor of HB2150 and look forward to hearing from you about this important bill that will have a huge impact on small schools such as mine.

Sincerely,



Donna K. Kawasaki
Teacher, Grades 5 and 6
Waiahole Elementary School
48-215 Waiahole Valley Road
Kaneohe, HI 96744

February 3, 2020

LATE

Lower & Higher Education Committee
Chair Justin H. Woodson
Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
Vice Chair Sean Quinaln

RE: In support of HB2150

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, and Vice Chair Quinaln,

My name is Braylee Woodland and I am a student at Waiahole who attends Waiahole Elementary in Kaneohe.

I am in support of HB2150 because I think it would be a lot easier for the teachers to teach separate grades in different classrooms. They would be able to focus on one grade. They wouldn't have to plan different lessons for each grade and cram them all into one day.

Also, it would be a lot easier on the students because they would have more time with the teacher and wouldn't have to wait and do something less productive while another grade is learning. If they needed help they could spend extra time with the teacher and the teacher wouldn't be busy with another grade.

Last but not least it would give more time to both the teachers and the students. The students would be able to work with the teacher more if they didn't understand something and the teacher would have more time for his/her lesson.

Representatives of the Lower and Higher Education Committee please vote in support of HB2150. I look forward to hearing from you about this issue.

Sincerely,

Braylee Woodland
Braylee Woodland

Waiahole Elementary School
48-215 Waiahole Valley Road
Kaneohe, HI 96744

February 3, 2020

Lower & Higher Education Committee
Chair Justin H. Woodson
Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
Vice Chair Sean Quinaln

LATE

RE: In support of HB2150

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, and Vice Chair Quinlan,

My name is Sabine Caruso and I am a student at Waiahole Elementary. I support the bill because I believe that all schools deserve a full cast of teachers. I support this bill because teaching two grades is hard on the teacher who has to plan lessons for both. Having a teacher for each grade lets the teacher work with each student individually.

I went to kindergarten in a class of 5. We were not grouped with another teacher, we had our own. I think the schools in Hawaii should have the same rights. Representative of the Lower & Higher Education Committee, please vote in support of HB2150. I look forward to hearing from you about this issue.

Sincerely,



Sabine Caruso
Waiahole Elementary School
48-215 Waiahole Valley Road
Kaneohe, HI 96744

February 3, 2020

Lower & Higher Education Committee
Chair Justin H. Woodson
Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
Vice Chair Sean Quinaln

LATE

RE: In support of HB2150

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, and Vice Chair Quinlan,

My name is Presten and I am a student who attends waiahole in 6th grade.
I support bill HB2150 because it will give our teacher an easier time teaching one grade at a time .
right now at Waiahole School my teacher has to split her time teaching both 5th and 6th grade ELA
and m Math. It's not fair to us because we don't get the full time to ourselves. Another reason is so it
can give another teacher a job.

Once I needed help with my math problem but my teacher couldn't help me. She was too busy with the
5th grade she couldn't get to me because this happened because 5th and 6th are learning different
things.

Representative of the Lower and Higher Education Committee pleaaaaase vote in support of
HB2150. I look forward to hearing from you about this issue.

Sincerely,

presten pakele

Presten Pakele
Waiahole Elementary School
48-215 Waiahole Valley Road
Kaneohe, HI 96744

February 3, 2020

Lower & Higher Education Committee
Chair Justin H. Woodson
Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
Vice Chair Sean Quinaln

LATE

RE: In support of HB2150

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, and Vice Chair Quinlan,


My name is Grace Balukoff and I am a student who attends Waiahole Elementary School in 6th grade.

I support HB2150 because it helps both 5th and 6th graders to learn at their best. 6th graders will be moving to a new school next school year, so we would like to be taught at our best. To do that we should have more time. As a combined class we have time for 5th grade and then 6th grade. 5th grade and 6th grade learning are very different learning. Almost every day our time is split, so we don't have a lot of time to learn.

My sister will be going into 5th grade next year. I think she will get confused and that is not fair to them and our teacher, because the 5th graders now are learning 6th grade stuff. So the 4th graders will get confused.

Representatives of the Lower and Higher Education Committee, please vote on HB2150. I look forward to hearing from you about this issue.

Sincerely,



Grace Balukoff
Waiahole Elementary School
48-215 Waiahole Valley Road
Kaneohe, HI 96744

February 3, 2020

Lower & Higher Education Committee
Chair Justin H. Woodson
Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
Vice Chair Sean Quinaln

LATE

RE: In support of HB2150

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, and Vice Chair Quinlan,

My name is Jewel Ah Nee and I am a student who currently attends Waiahole elementary school in Kaneohe. I am in grade 5 and I currently have 4 students in my grade. I support bill HB2150 because I think that if we have a separate teacher for each grade level it will be easier to teach each grade level without having to make one grade level do online educational programs like IXL or Clever while you teach the other grade level. I think that it would be a waste of time to do that. That's why I think if we have separate teachers it will be much better.¹

I also think that it is smart because the students can really get the help they need from the teacher. For example I am having trouble with my math homework. My teacher would never find the time to help me understand it when she has 5th grade. Versus if she just had grade 5 then she could fit in some time to help me. I think that it would be very helpful to the students with their learning. It will help with problems like getting distracted. It would be much easier to spot because it's a smaller class than a combined.

Like what I have already said I have 4 students in my level and, last year I was in grade 4. My teacher had an easier time teaching because she could have more personal time with her students. She could know what her students need to know and what they already knew. That is my reason for why I support bill HB2150.

Representatives of the lower and higher Education committee, please vote in support of HB2150. I look forward to hearing from you about this issue.

Sincerely,



Jewel Ah Nee
Waiahole Elementary School
48-215 Waiahole Valley Road
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Lower & Higher Education Committee
Chair Justin H. Woodson
Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
Vice Chair Sean Quinaln

LATE

RE: In support of HB2150

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, and Vice Chair Quinaln,

My name is Tristen and I am a student who attends Waiahole Elementary.

I support the bill HB2150

because we are a small school with little students. We really need more teachers for the combined classes.

The issue is important to me because the other class is learning things that are learning things that are different for them. The teacher needs to split the classes.

Sincerely,

Tristen Pakele - Picanco

Tristen Pakele-Picanco

Waiahole Elementary School

48-215 Waiahole Valley Road
Kaneohe, HI 96744

February 3, 2020

Lower & Higher Education Committee
Chair Justin H. Woodson
Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
Vice Chair Sean Quinaln

LATE

RE: In support of HB2150

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, and Vice Chair Quinlan,

My name is Elijah Ennis and I am a student who attends Waiahole Elementary.

I am in support of HB2150 because sometimes the teachers don't have enough time to teach both of us. For example sometimes we are separated in to doing two different subjects while one is on the chromebook and the other is doing whatever we are learning.

It has affected me by not learning enough from the teacher enough because we have to take turns learning from the teacher because we have two different grade levels in the same class.

Representatives of the lower and higher Education committee please vote in support of HB2150. I look forward to hearing from you about this issue.

Sincerely,



Elijah Ennis
Waiahole Elementary School
48-215 Waiahole Valley Road
Kaneohe, HI 96744

February 3, 2020

Lower & Higher Education Committee
Chair Justin H. Woodson
Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
Vice Chair Sean Quinaln



RE: In support of HB2150

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, and Vice Chair Quinlan,

My name is Zoe Lewis and I am a student who goes to Waiahole Elementary in Kaneohe.

I think we need bill HB2150 because it would help small schools such as the one I'm in. If we had a teacher to teach 5th grade, 5th grade would have much better education. We currently have one teacher teaching both 5th and 6th, and she has to split her time between us. Both grades don't get as much learning time as we need, and we are starting to fall behind.

Also, if 5th grade had their own teacher, they would get much more hands on time with their teacher. Our teacher just has too many students to get hands on with all of them. 5th grade only has 4 students, But even that much can still make it hard.

I am in 6th grade, and we have to get split up almost every day so we can both learn. On some days we stay together, And I think it is especially hard for her on those days. 5th and 6th are learning really different things ,and sometimes she gets mixed up.

Representatives of the lower and higher education committee, please vote in support of HB2150. I look forward to hearing from you about this issue.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zoe Lewis".

Zoe Lewis
Waiahole Elementary School
48-215 Waiahole Valley Road
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Lower & Higher Education Committee
Chair Justin H. Woodson
Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
Vice Chair Sean Quinaln

LATE

RE: In support of HB2150

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, and Vice Chair Quinlan,

My name is Jahniyah and I am a student who attends Waiahole Elementary in Kaneohe. I am in support for HB2150 because we would get a better education. Also we could get better hands on with our teachers. This affects me because of the other grades. If we don't get our own separate teachers it will be so difficult for them because the teachers would have to switch between two grade levels. It affected me this year because my teacher keeps switching between fifth and sixth grade and if I need help I would have to get help from my friends because my teacher would be working with fifth grade.

Representatives of the lower and higher Education committee please vote in support of HB2150. I look forward to hearing from you about this issue.

Sincerely, *Jahniyah Halukalani, - Hee*

Jahniyah
Waiahole Elementary School
48-215 Waiahole Valley Road
Kaneohe, HI 96744

February 3, 2020

Lower & Higher Education Committee
Chair Justin H. Woodson
Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
Vice Chair Sean Quinaln

LATE

RE: In support of HB2150

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, and Vice Chair Quinlan,

My name is Selena Medeiros and I am a student who attends Waiahole Elementary in Kaneohe.

I am in support of HB2150 because when one teacher teaches two grades both of the grades will not get that much time to learn because the teacher has to teach both grades. And the students will not be ready for the next grade because you never learn a lot more than you are supposed to learn. Also hard for the teacher to teach grades because both grades are learning different things and it takes lots of other students time.

I think that each grade should have their own teacher because I don't know things that my grade is supposed to know by now because my teacher has to teach two grades so I don't have that much learning time. Another thing that I think that each grade should have their own teacher because I want to know more so that I will know more because I ask questions that I have not learned yet and that I know what to know but we haven't had that much time to learn it.

I am hoping that you help us out and vote in support of HB2150. I look forward to hearing from you about this issue.

Sincerely, *Selena Medeiros*

Selena Medeiros
Waiahole Elementary School
48-215 Waiahole Valley Road
Kaneohe, HI 96744

LATE

HB-2150

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 2:36:50 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| marayah | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support HB2150.

LATE

HB-2150

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 3:44:41 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Mark Ellis | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support HB2150. Learner and families should have the ability to send thier childern to the school in their community. Schools should have the funding to hire one teacher per grade level.

Mahalo,

Mark Ellis

LATE

HB-2150

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 3:58:36 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Cindy wong | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

LATE

HB-2150

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 4:36:23 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Kaiolohia Maii | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am support of Hb2150

LATE

HB-2150

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 7:50:32 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Makala Paakaula | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

For schools to effectively run, teaching positions are key. Having schools where each grade level has a teacher is ideal and allows for maximum effectiveness of student achievement and growth. When combination classes are created often because of low enrollment it puts a strain on teachers, programs, and students. It makes it harder to retain teachers as teaching two or more grade levels is an increased burden in teacher planning and assessment of multiple grade level standards. This then makes it harder to create and sustain programs and continuity.

I support this small school bill.

February 3, 2020

LATE

Lower & Higher Education Committee
Chair Justin H. Woodson
Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
Vice Chair Sean Quinaln

RE: In support of HB2150

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, and Vice Chair Quinlan,

My name is Shane Kumashiro, School Counselor and Student Services Coordinator (SSC) at Waiahole Elementary School. I am in support of HB2150, which would allow small schools with 150 students and below to have one teacher per grade level.

I am in support of HB2150 because this bill would allow small schools under 150 students to have one teacher per grade level. Over the past 6 years that I have been a School Counselor and SSC at Waiahole Elementary School, I have seen a range of combination classes over the years based off of student enrollment. Some years I have seen a combination class of 2nd and 3rd grade, another year 3rd and 4th grade, and this year, 5th and 6th grade. I have seen both veteran and new hire teachers as combination class teachers and each time, it has, in my opinion, been a disservice for both teacher and students. Teachers were expected to teach multiple grade level standards to two different grade levels just because our school didn't have enough funds for a separate teacher position due to lack of funds through the weighted student formula (WSF). Students struggle to master their grade level standards because the teacher has to split the teaching between two grade levels. Our students deserve to have their own dedicated teacher and our teachers deserve to have a dedicated class of students.

I strongly urge you to support HB2150 so that all small schools statewide can have one dedicated teacher per grade level. I am available if you have any further comments or questions. Please feel free to contact me at (808) 239-3111 or through email at shane.kumashiro@k12.hi.us.

Sincerely,

Shane Kumashiro

Shane Kumashiro
Waiahole Elementary School
School Counselor/Student Services Coordinator (SSC)

LATE

HB-2150

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 10:05:17 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Ryan Mandado | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Chairman Woodson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ryan Mandado and I'm the Chief Academic Officer of DreamHouse 'Ewa Beach Public Charter Schools. I am in support of this bill.

Small schools, especially schools in rural communities, are the heart of their communities. It is euqitable to ensure students in small schools have access to highly-qualified educators in each grade level.

I'm in support of this measure and I hope you continue to support small schools, especially in rural communities.

Mahalo,

Ryan Mandado

808-931-0442

ryanmandado@gmail.com

LATE

LATE

HB-2150

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 8:49:56 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/4/2020 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Sadie Kim | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: